

## **What is claimed is:**

**[Claim 1]** A Braille input device, comprising:

a plurality of dot keys for inputting dot information for forming Braille characters; and  
at least one function key positioned in close proximity to a preselected dot key of said plurality of dot keys.

**[Claim 2]** The Braille input device of claim 1, further comprising:

said at least one function key positioned adjacent and above said preselected dot key  
to facilitate location of said at least one function key.

**[Claim 3]** The Braille input device of claim 1, further comprising:

said plurality of dot keys including eight keys;  
said eight keys being grouped into a left-hand group of four keys and a right-hand  
group of four keys.

**[Claim 4]** The Braille input device of claim 3, further comprising:

said at least one function key including eight function keys;  
each of said eight function keys being positioned adjacent and above an associated dot  
key.

**[Claim 5]** The Braille input device of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one cursor router key disposed in proximity to said plurality of dot keys.

**[Claim 6]** The Braille input device of claim 3, further comprising:

said at least one cursor router key being disposed between said left-hand group of four  
keys and said right-hand group of four keys.

**[Claim 7]** A Braille input device, comprising:

a plurality of dot keys for inputting dot information for forming Braille characters;  
a Braille display including a plurality of Braille cells positioned in a row; and  
at least one function key positioned in close proximity to a preselected dot key of said  
plurality of dot keys.

**[Claim 8]** The Braille input device of claim 7, further comprising:

said at least one function key positioned adjacent and above said preselected dot key  
to facilitate location of said at least one function key.

**[Claim 9]** The Braille input device of claim 7, further comprising:

said plurality of dot keys including eight keys;  
said eight keys being grouped into a left-hand group of four keys and a right-hand  
group of four keys.

**[Claim 10]** The Braille input device of claim 9, further comprising:

said at least one function key including eight function keys;  
each of said eight function keys being positioned adjacent and above an associated dot key.

**[Claim 11]** The Braille input device of claim 9, further comprising:  
at least one cursor router key disposed in proximity to said plurality of dot keys.

**[Claim 12]** The Braille input device of claim 11, further comprising:  
said at least one cursor router key being disposed between said left-hand group of four keys and said right-hand group of four keys.